

**National Commission on  
Forensic Science (NCFS)**

and

**Organization of Scientific  
Area Committees (OSAC)**

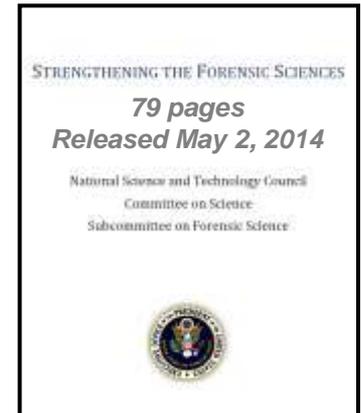
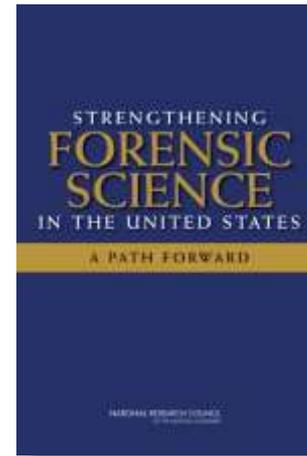
John M. Butler, Ph.D.

National Institute of Standards and Technology

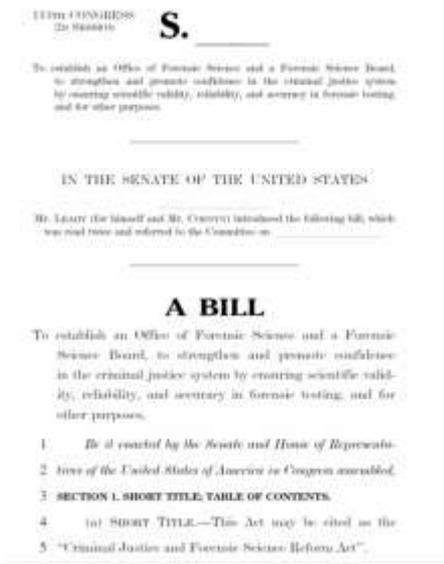
Vice-Chair, National Commission on Forensic Science

# Forensic Science Realignment

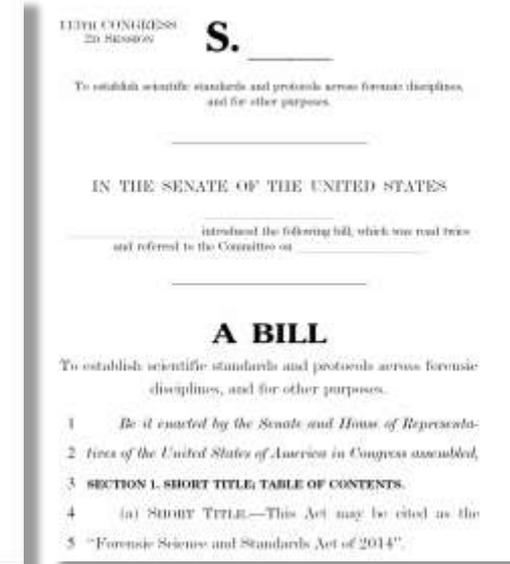
- NAS report – Feb 2009
- White House Subcommittee on Forensic Science (SoFS) – July 2009 to Dec 2012
- **DOJ/NIST Partnership**
  - **NCFS** (National Commission on Forensic Science)
  - **OSAC** (Organization of Scientific Area Committees)
- Pending Legislation (Senate)
  - Leahy Bill (Justice)
  - Rockefeller Bill (Commerce)
- FY14 New NIST Role
  - administer OSAC



[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/NSTC/strengthening\\_the\\_forensic\\_sciences\\_may\\_-\\_2014.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/NSTC/strengthening_the_forensic_sciences_may_-_2014.pdf)



**Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act (Leahy Bill)**



**Forensic Science and Standards Act (Rockefeller Bill)**

# NIST and Other Federal Efforts in Forensic Science

- **NIST-DOJ Partnership**

- MOU signed March 2013 by NIST Director and Attorney General
- Formed National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) and guidance groups → Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

- **White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP)**

- National Science & Technology Council **Subcommittee on Forensic Science** (NSTC SoFS) operated from July 2009 to Dec 2012
- SoFS 79-page document released May 2, 2014
- OSTP research working group with NSF, NIST, and DOJ meeting met regularly Sept 2013 to March 2014

# February 3-4, 2014 was the first meeting of the **National Commission on Forensic Science**



37 Commissioners + DOJ/NIST Leadership Team  
(with ~100 public attendees)

# Webcast of Second NCFS Meeting

<http://www.nist.gov/forensics/national-commission-on-forensic-science-webcast.cfm>

National Commission on Forensic Science Meeting Part 1



So I'd like to welcome those who are viewing us via the Webcast.

02:55 / 02:00

English

The image shows a video player interface for a webcast. The main content is a wide-angle shot of a conference room. A long, dark wood conference table is set up with a dark red cloth. Numerous people are seated around the table, facing each other. In the center of the table, a man in a dark suit is circled in red. Behind the table, a blue backdrop features the logo of the National Commission on Forensic Science. To the left and right of the backdrop are the United States flag and the NIST flag. The room is well-lit, and there are large windows in the background. At the bottom of the video player, there is a progress bar showing 02:55 / 02:00, a play/pause button, and a language dropdown menu set to 'English'. The subtitle at the bottom of the frame reads: 'So I'd like to welcome those who are viewing us via the Webcast.'

# NCFS Members

Commissioner Biographies available at <http://www.justice.gov/ncfs/members.html>

## ***Co-Chairs:***

James M. Cole

**Willie E. May, Ph.D.**  
(Acting Director of NIST)

## ***Vice-Chairs:***

Nelson Santos

John Butler, Ph.D.

## ***Commission Staff:***

Brette Steele

Robin Jones

## ***Commission Members:***

Suzanne Bell, Ph.D.

Frederick Bieber, Ph.D.

Thomas Cech, Ph.D.

Cecelia Crouse, Ph.D.

Gregory Czarnopys

M. Bonner Denton, Ph.D.

Vincent Di Maio, M.D.

Troy Duster, Ph.D.

Jules Epstein

Stephen Fienberg, Ph.D.

Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, Ph.D.

John Fudenberg

S. James Gates, Jr., Ph.D.

Dean Gialamas

Paul Giannelli

Hon. Barbara Hervey

Susan Howley

Ted Hunt

Linda Jackson

John Kacavas

Pamela King

Marc LeBeau, Ph.D.

Julia Leighton

Hon. Bridget Mary McCormack

Peter Neufeld

Phil Pulaski

Matthew Redle

Michael "Jeff" Salyards, Ph.D.

Ryant Washington

## ***Ex-Officio Members:***

Hon. Jed Rakoff

David Honey, Ph.D.

Marilyn Huestis, Ph.D.

Gerald LaPorte

Patricia Manzolillo

Frances Schrotter

Kathryn Turman

Mark Weiss, Ph.D.

# National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS)



Home » National Commission on Forensic Science

Printer Friendly

National Commission on Forensic Science Home

Members

Meetings

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In 2013, the Department of Justice (DOJ) established the National Commission on Forensic Science, in partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), to enhance the practice and improve the reliability of forensic science. This unique partnership draws upon each agency's core strengths to promote scientific validity, reduce fragmentation, and improve federal coordination of forensic science.

The Commission is co-chaired by Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole and NIST Acting Director and Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology, Willie May. Nelson Santos, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Forensic Sciences at the Drug Enforcement Administration, and John M. Butler, Special Assistant to the NIST Director for forensic science, serve as vice-chairs. Brette Steele, Senior Advisor on Forensic Science and Senior Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General serves as the Designated Federal Officer and Robin Jones, Consultant within the Department of Justice, serves as Program Manager.

The Commission includes federal, state and local forensic science service providers; research scientists and academics; law enforcement officials; prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges; and other stakeholders from across the country.

## GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Charter

Bylaws

GENERAL INFORMATION  
NATIONAL COMMISSION  
ON FORENSIC SCIENCE

**CONTACT**

**Brette Steele**  
Brette.L.Steele@usdoj.gov

**By Phone:**  
(202) 305-0180

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**James M. Cole**  
Deputy Attorney General  
**DOJ Co-Chair**



**Willie E. May**  
Acting Director of NIST  
**New NIST Co-Chair**



**Patrick D. Gallagher**  
NIST Director (2009-2014)  
**Initial NIST Co-Chair**  
Left NIST → Chancellor of Pitt  
<http://www.news.pitt.edu/chancellorelect>

# NCFS Leadership and Staff Support



**Nelson A. Santos**  
Vice-Chair (DOJ)



**John M. Butler**  
Vice-Chair (NIST)



**Brette L. Steele**  
Designated Federal Official



**Robin W. Jones**  
Program Manager

# NCFS Co-Chairs and OSTP Director address the first Commission meeting

NIST Director  
Pat Gallagher

Deputy Attorney General  
James Cole

OSTP Director  
John Holdren



# Judge Harry T. Edwards (co-chair of the 2009 NAS Report) addresses the National Commission on Forensic Science at its first meeting on February 3, 2014





## Informational Briefings

- **Judge Harry Edwards** spoke on findings from the 2009 NAS report
- Bureau of Justice Statistics researcher **Matt DuRose** reviewed the 2009 census of U.S. forensic laboratories



# White House Subcommittee on Forensic Science

committee chairs discuss outcome of work  
conducted from 2009 to 2012

**Patricia Manzolillo**

U.S. Postal Service  
Forensic Laboratory



**Accreditation  
& Certification**

**Dean Gialamas**

LA County Sheriff's  
Office Crime Lab



**Proficiency  
Testing**

**Jeff Salyards**

Defense Forensic  
Science Center



**Research &  
Development**

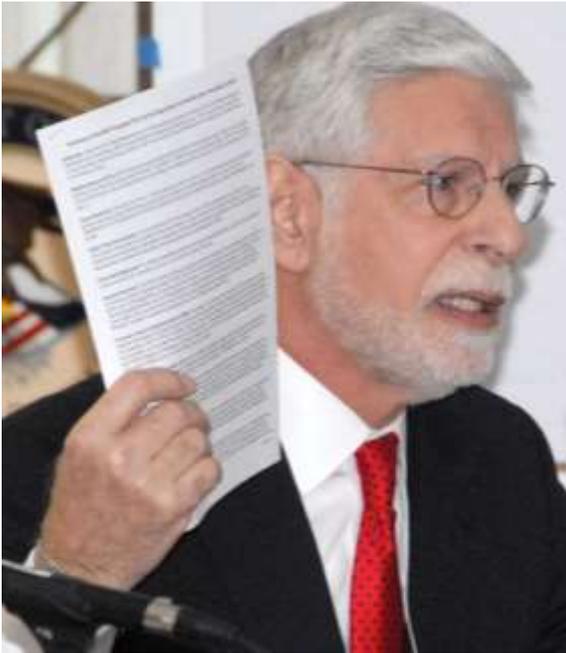
**Gerry LaPorte**

National Institute  
of Justice



**Documentary  
Standards**

## Mark Stolorow (NIST) introduces the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) plan



For more information, see <http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac.cfm>

## Commission discussions were led by Vice-Chairs John Butler (NIST) and Nelson Santos (DOJ)



*Discussed issues and developed subcommittee topics*

# 6 Initial NCFS Subcommittees Formed

1. Accreditation and Proficiency Testing
2. Interim Solutions
3. Medico-legal Death Investigation
4. Reporting and Testimony
5. Scientific Inquiry and Research
6. Training on Science and Law

A **cognitive bias subcommittee** was recommended at the second meeting and is in the process of being formed

# MEETING TWO: May 12 – 13, 2014

Open to public and **webcast**

**Meeting 3: August 26-27, 2014**  
**Meeting 4: October 28-29, 2014**  
**Meeting 5: January 29-30, 2015**  
**Meeting 6: April 30-May 1, 2015**

## AGENDA ITEMS:

- **Panel Discussions:** Human Factors & Cognitive Bias, Ethics in Forensic Science
- **Subcommittee Reports**
- OSAC Update/Report

# Human Factors and Cognitive Bias

## Panel Discussion



**Deborah Boehm-Davis**

Dean, College of Humanities and Social  
Sciences and University Professor,  
Department of Psychology,  
George Mason University



**John Collins**

President,  
Forensic Foundations Group



**Michael Risinger**

John J. Gibbons Professor of Law,  
Seton Hall University School of Law



**David H. Kaye**

Distinguished Professor of Law  
and Weiss Family Faculty Scholar,  
Penn State University,  
Dickinson School of Law

# Ethics and Forensic Science Panel Discussion



**J.C. Upshaw Downs**  
Coastal Regional Medical Examiner,  
Georgia Bureau of Investigation



**Rob Lesnevich**  
Director, Forensic Science Laboratory,  
US Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration

# NCFS Subcommittee Co-Chairs



## Accreditation and Proficiency Testing

*Co-Chair: Ms. Linda Jackson, Director, Virginia Department of Forensic Science*

*Co-Chair: Ms. Patricia Manzolillo, Director, U.S. Postal Service Forensic Laboratory*



## Interim Solutions

*Co-Chair: Mr. Dean Gialamas, Crime Laboratory Director, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office Scientific Services Bureau*

*Co-Chair: Mr. Peter Neufeld, Co-Director, Innocence Project*



## Medico-Legal Death Investigation

*Co-Chair: Mr. John Fudenberg, Assistant Coroner, Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner*

*Co-Chair: Dr. Vince Di Maio, Consultant in Forensic Pathology*



## Reporting and Testimony

*Co-Chair: Judge Jed Rakoff, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York*

*Co-Chair: Mr. Matt Redle, Sheridan County (WY) Prosecuting Attorney's Office*



## Scientific Inquiry and Research

*Co-Chair: Dr. Suzanne Bell, Associate Professor of Chemistry, West Virginia University*

*Co-Chair: Dr. Jeff Salyards, Director, Defense Forensic Science Center*



## Training on Science and Law

*Co-Chair: Judge Barbara Hervey, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals*

*Co-Chair: Dr. Jim Gates, Professor of Physics, University of Maryland*

# OSAC Update



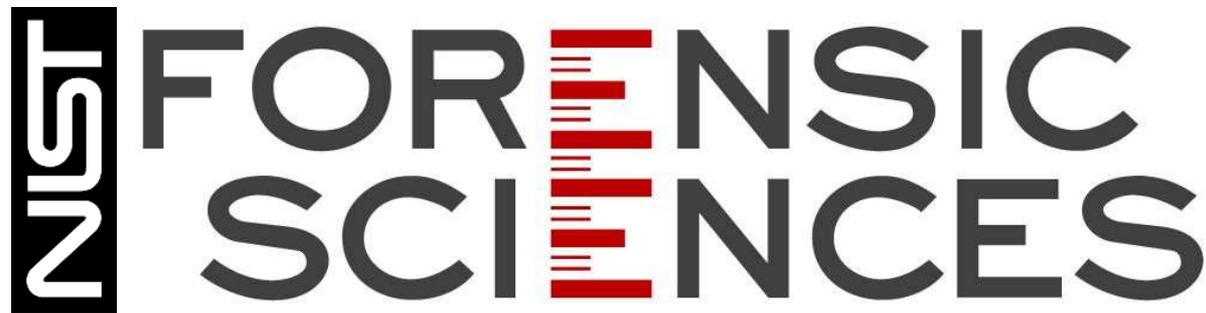
**Mark D. Stolorow**  
Director of OSAC Affairs  
NIST Office of Special Programs



**Willie E. May**  
Acting Director of NIST  
**New NIST Co-Chair**

# Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

Forensic discipline-specific guidance groups administered by NIST



# OSAC Events and Information



NIST Home > Forensics > Organization of Scientific Area Committees

[www.nist.gov/forensics/osac.cfm](http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac.cfm)



## Organization for Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

NIST is working with the forensic science community to establish the new Organization for Scientific Area Committees (OSAC). OSAC will coordinate development of standards and guidelines for the forensic science community to improve quality and consistency of work in the forensic science community. View the current **organization chart**. Click on the links below to learn about OSAC developments. See our **FAQs for OSAC**.

**July 7, 2014** – Presentation slides for first FSSB virtual meeting (opens PDF)

**June 26, 2014** – NIST Names Members to First Forensic Science Standards Board (news release)

**May 14, 2014** – Forensic Committee Application Closes for 2014; Candidates May Apply for 2015

**May 14, 2014** – OSAC Update Presented to National Commission on Forensic Science, presentation slides (opens PDF)

**April 22, 2014** – NIST Seeks Applicants to Join Forensic Science Committees (news release)

**April 11, 2014** – Calling Forensic Scientists: Apply Now to Join the NIST Organization of Scientific Area Committees (news update)

**April 11, 2014** – The OSAC Roles and Responsibilities document is now available.

**April 11, 2014** – Application form for NIST Organization of Scientific Area Committees is online. Apply now.

**March 18, 2014** – Application Form for NIST Organization of Scientific Area Committees Coming Soon (news update)

**March 18, 2014** – Updated summary of the NIST Plan for the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (pdf)

**Feb. 18, 2014** – NIST Forensic Science team gave a panel presentation at the American Academy of

**1313 applicants from  
April 11 to May 11  
(>150 for DNA)**

**FSSB announced June 26**

**Feb. 18, 2014** – NIST Forensic Science team gave a panel presentation at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting.

- View the recorded Webcast on New Forensic Scientific Area Committees
- Presentation slides (PDF)

**Feb. 14, 2014** – NIST announces Feb. 18 Webcast on New Forensic Scientific Area Committees

**Feb. 7, 2014** – NIST Presents an Infrastructure Plan to Strengthen Forensic Science Committees

**Feb. 7, 2014** – Revised slide presentation on OSAC (pdf)

**Feb. 7, 2014** – 3-page summary of the NIST Proposed Plan for the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (pdf)

**Feb. 4, 2014** – Slide presentation on OSAC to the National Commission on Forensic Science (pdf)

**Feb. 4, 2014** – Public Comments on NIST Notice of Inquiry: Possible Models for the Administration and Support for Forensic Guidance Groups (opens pdf 8MB)

**Sept. 27, 2013** – NIST Invites Comments on Structure of Forensic Science Guidance Groups (news release)

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100 Bureau Drive, Stop 4701  
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301-975-2756 or  
301-975-2757

# Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

## Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

Legal Resource  
Committee (LRC)

Quality Infrastructure  
Committee (QIC)

Human Factors  
Committee (HFC)

**SAC**  
Biology/DNA

**SAC**  
Chemistry/  
Instrumental Analysis

**SAC**  
Crime Scene/  
Death Investigation

**SAC**  
IT/Multimedia

**SAC**  
Physics/Pattern

DNA Analysis Sub1

DNA Analysis Sub2

Wildlife Forensics Sub

Controlled Substances Sub

Fire Debris and Explosives  
Sub (lab)

Geological Materials Sub

Gunshot Residue Sub

Materials (Trace) Sub

Toxicology Sub

Anthropology Sub

Disaster Victim  
Identification Sub

Dogs and Sensors Sub

Fire Scene and  
Explosives Sub

Medical/Legal Death  
Investigation Sub

Odontology Sub

Facial Identification Sub

Imaging Technologies Sub

Speaker Recognition Sub

Blood Stain Pattern  
Analysis Sub

Friction Ridge Sub

Firearms & Toolmarks  
Sub

Footwear  
& Tire Tread Sub

Questioned Documents  
Sub

SAC = Scientific Area Committee  
Sub = Subcommittee

**FSSB appointed June 26, 2014**

QIC, LRC, HFC – July

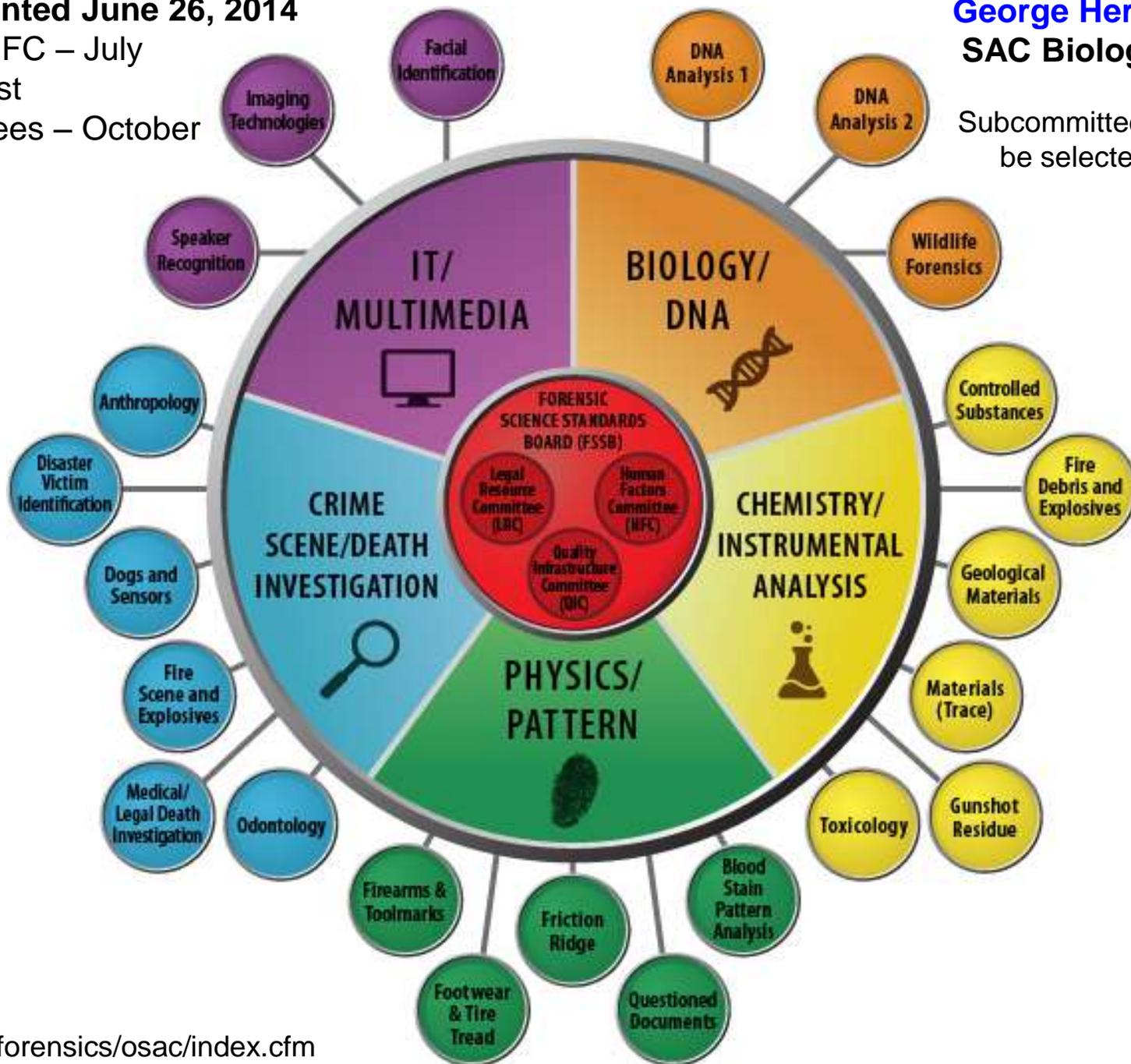
SAC – August

Subcommittees – October

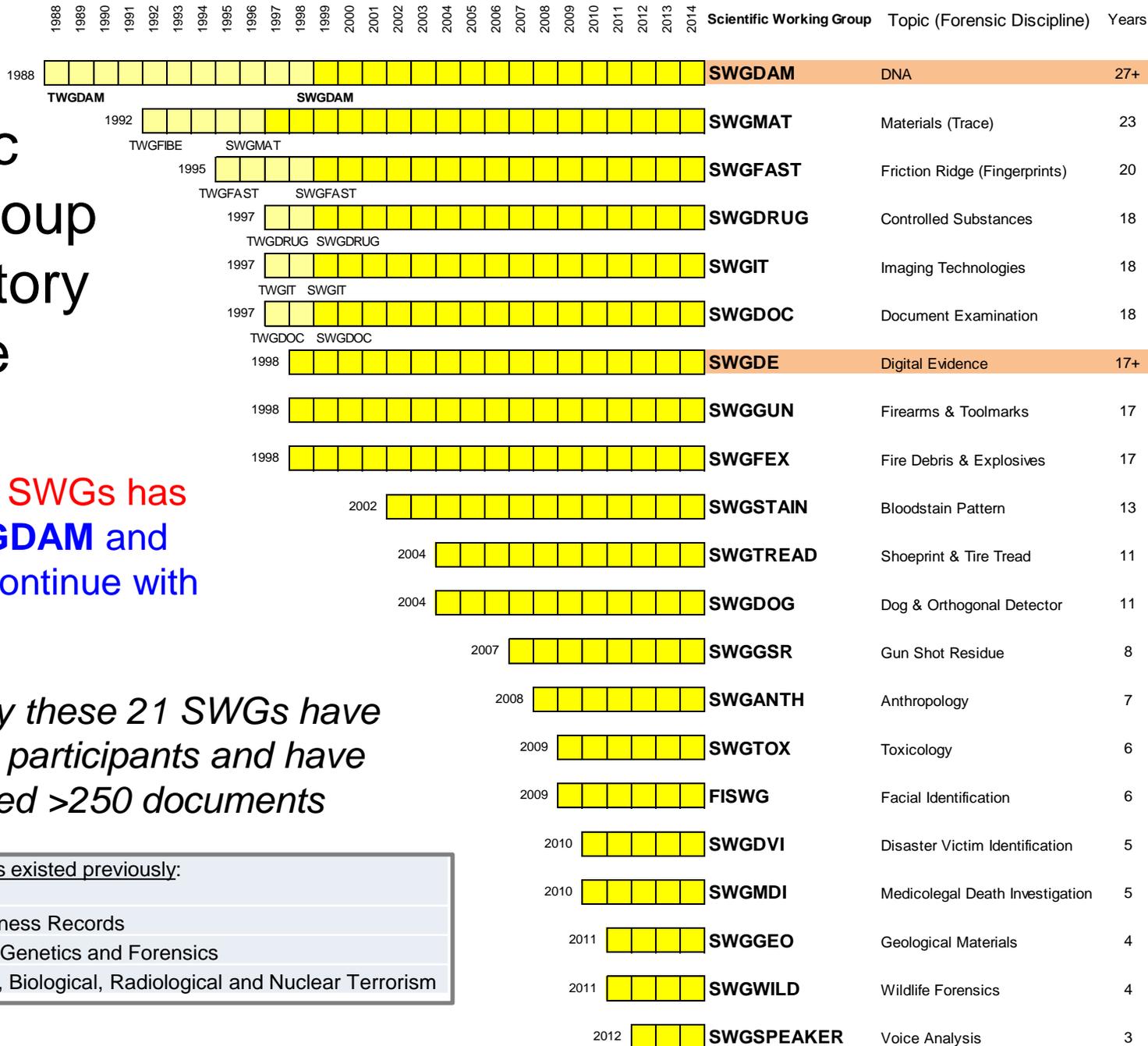
**George Herrin (GBI)**

**SAC Biology Chair**

Subcommittee chairs to be selected soon



# Scientific Working Group (SWG) History Timeline



NIJ funding of SWGs has stopped; **SWG DAM** and **SWG DE** will continue with FBI funding

*Collectively these 21 SWGs have had >750 participants and have produced >250 documents*

At least three other SWGs existed previously:

<b>SWGIBRA</b>	Illicit Business Records
<b>SWGMGF</b>	Microbial Genetics and Forensics
<b>SWGCBRN</b>	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism

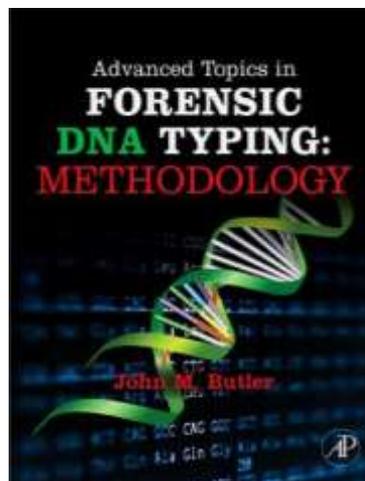
# Interpretation Book to be Out in September

## Gathering the Data

## Understanding Results Obtained & Sharing Them

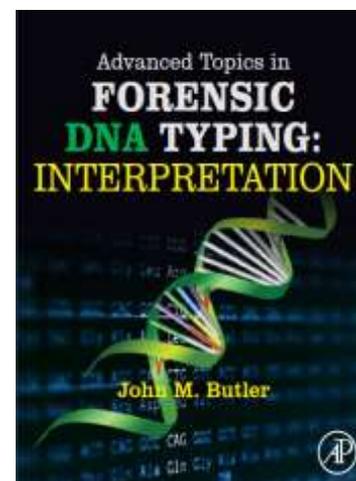


*Advanced Topics: Methodology*



August 2011

*Advanced Topics: Interpretation*



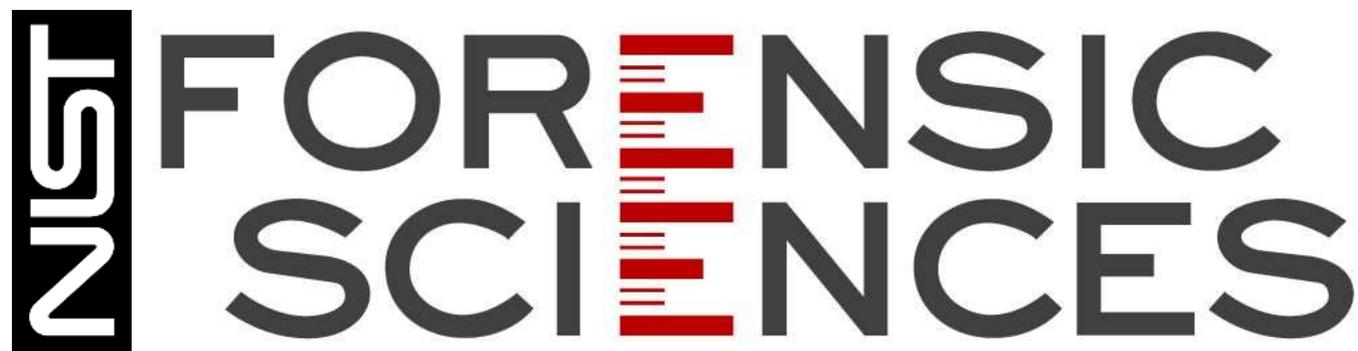
September 2014

# Save the Date for Future Meetings

- **Validation Webinar organized by Mike Coble**  
**August 6, 2014**
- **ISHI New Loci & Kits Workshop (Phoenix, AZ):**  
**October 2, 2014**
- **Forensics@NIST (Gaithersburg, MD):**  
**December 3-4, 2014**
- **International Symposium on Forensic Measurement Issues and Error (Washington, DC):**  
**July 20-24, 2015** *is being planned*

**National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS):**  
[www.justice.gov/ncfs](http://www.justice.gov/ncfs)

**Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC):**  
[www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/index.cfm](http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/index.cfm)



[www.nist.gov/forensics](http://www.nist.gov/forensics)

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